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FIELD CROPS

Crop Production



August 14, 2000

FLORIDA

COTTON, UPLAND: Growers expect yields to average 420 pounds per acre, down 96 pounds from last year. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 92,000 acres, down 14,000 acres from a year earlier. Production is estimated at 80,500 bales, down 29 percent from 1999. The current rains have improved the cotton crop condition. The cotton crop is mostly in fair to good condition.

PEANUTS: Average yield is estimated at 2,400 pounds per acre, down 370 pounds from last year's average. Production is estimated at 192,000,000 pounds, down 26 percent from the 1999 production. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 80,000 acres, down 15 percent from a year earlier. On August 6, the peanut crop was reported in fair to good condition with 84 percent of the crop having pegged.

SUGARCANE FOR SUGAR AND SEED: Recent rains boosted development with the crop rated in good condition. Yield of the 2000-01 crop is forecast to average 36 tons per acre, up one ton or three percent from a year ago. Acreage is set at 448,000 down 3 percent or 12,000 acres from the 1999-00 season. Production calculates to 16,128,000 tons for the current year, up less than one percent or 28,000 tons from last season.

TOBACCO: Growers plan to harvest 4,900 acres in 2000, down 900 acres from last year. Yield is forecast at 2,500 pounds, down from the 2,640 pounds in 1999. Production is estimated at 12,250,000 pounds, down 20 percent from last year. Harvesting will continue through August. The tobacco markets opened on August 1 for the 2000 marketing season.

UNITED STATES

CORN FOR GRAIN: Planted area for corn for all purposes is estimated at 79.6 million acres, unchanged from June but up 3 percent from last year. Acreage for grain harvest is estimated at 73.1 million acres, down 29,000 acres from June, but up 4 percent from a year ago. If realized, this would be the largest grain harvested acreage since 1985. After a warm and dry winter, timely rains fell throughout the corn Belt and maintained adequate moisture for plant growth and development. Cooler-than-normal temperatures and some isolated areas of excess moisture slowed crop growth and development slightly in the eastern Corn Belt. Serious moisture shortages remained in isolated pockets of the western Corn Belt and Great Plains at the beginning of August. As of July 30, corn condition was rated 74 percent good to excellent in the major corn-producing States.

COTTON: Upland cotton planted acreage, at 15.4 million acres, is 5 percent above 1999. Harvested acreage, at 14.0 million acres, is up 7 percent from last year. Growers planted 182,000 acres of American-Pima cotton. Area to be harvested is 181,000 acres, down 37 percent from last year. In the southeastern States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia), producers have experienced abnormal weather conditions throughout most of June and July. Moisture shortages have persisted for most of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. Rains received during the second half of June were beneficial, but quickly evaporated due to record setting high temperatures. Producers in Florida and Georgia have already reported abandoning cotton fields with poor stands. North Carolina and Virginia have received adequate moisture levels, but Virginia has experienced delays in crop development due to unseasonably cool weather. The condition of the cotton crop had deteriorated during most of July, before showing slight improvements during the last week of the month.

ALL HAY: Production is forecast at 74.5 million tons, less than 1 percent below last year's record production. Yields are expected to average 1.94 tons per acre, slightly above last year's yield. Harvested area is estimated at 38.4 million acres, down 2 percent from the 39.2 million acres harvested in 1999. This year's acreage will be the second highest since 1992.

PEANUTS: Production is forecast at 3.79 billion pounds, down 1 percent from last year's crop, and 4 percent below 1998. Area for harvest is expected to total 1.47 million acres, virtually unchanged from the June "Acreage" report but up 2 percent from 1999. Yields are expected to average 2,587 pounds, 80 pounds below last year and down 115 pounds from 1998. Production in the Southeast States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina) is expected to total 1.77 billion pounds, down 17 percent from last year's level. Expected acreage for harvest, at 795,500 acres, is down 7 percent from the previous year. Yields in the four-State area are expected to average 2,222 pounds per acre, 275 pounds below 1999. Moisture shortages stressed most fields in Alabama and part of

Georgia. As of July 30, peanut development in Alabama was 32 percentage points behind schedule with 54 percent of the acreage rated in poor to fair condition. In Georgia, crop development was 5 percentage points behind normal and condition on July 30 was 70 percent fair to good. The peanut crop in South Carolina was rated mostly fair to good.

SOYBEANS: Production is forecast at a record high 2.99 billion bushels, up 13 percent from 1999 and 9 percent above the previous record of 2.74 billion bushels set in 1998. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 40.7 bushels per acre, up 4.2 bushels from 1999. This is the second highest yield since the 1994 record of 41.4 bushels per acre. Acreage for harvest is estimated at a record 73.5 million acres, up 1 percent from 1999 and unchanged from the June acreage estimate.

SUGARCANE: Production is forecast at a record-high 36.5 million tons, 3 percent above the previous record of 35.3 million tons set last year. If realized, Louisiana will lead the Nation in production for the first time since records have been kept. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest a record high 1.02 million acres for sugar and seed during the 2000 crop year, 3 percent more than last year's final harvested acres. Compared with 1999, acreage increases in Louisiana and Texas more than offset acreage decreases in Florida and Hawaii. In Louisiana, a record high 490,000 acres are expected to be harvested. Yield is forecast at 35.8 tons per acre, 0.3 ton above 1999. July rains boosted crop conditions in Florida and parts of Louisiana and Texas. However, moisture shortages remain in most of the Louisiana parishes. Moisture shortages also limited crop growth in Texas.

TOBACCO: U.S. all tobacco production for 2000 is forecast at 1.07 billion pounds, down 17 percent from 1999 and 28 percent below 1998. If realized, this will be the smallest crop since 1932. Revised area for harvest in 2000 is forecast at 493,740 acres, down 24 percent from 1999. Yields for 2000 are expected to average 2,169 pounds per acre, 172 pounds higher than a year ago. Yield prospects in North Carolina, the leading flue-cured State, are averaging higher than last year. Kentucky, the leading burley State, also expects yields to average higher than a year ago. Flue-cured production is expected to total 585.8 million pounds, down 11 percent from 1999. Growers plan to harvest 253,900 acres in 2000, 16 percent below last year. Yield is expected to average 2,307 pounds per acre, 145 pounds higher than the previous year.

WINTER WHEAT: Acres for harvest as grain are forecast at 35.4 million, down slightly from 1999. Harvest progress in the 18 major producing States had reached 91 percent complete by July 30. This is 2 points ahead of last year and 4 points ahead of the average. Hard Red Winter (HRW) harvest was complete in the central and southern Great Plains. Harvest was complete in the soft Red Winter (SRW) States.

Crop production: Acreage for harvest and forecasts of yield and production for Florida and United States as of August 1, 2000 with comparisons

Crop	Harvested acreage		Yield per acre		Unit	Production	
	1999	For harvest 2000	1999	Indicated 2000		1999	Indicated 2000
	Thousands		Units			Thousands	
FLORIDA							
Cotton	106	92	516	420	^{1/}	114	80.5
Peanuts	94	80	2,770	2,400	Lbs.	260,380	192,000
Potatoes:							
Winter ^{2/}	9.3	8.0	200	230	Cwt	1,860	1,840
Spring ^{2/}	28	24	315	291	Cwt	8,820	6,990
Sugarcane	460	448	35	36	Ton	16,100	16,128
Tobacco, Type 14	5.8	4.9	2,640	2,500	Lbs.	15,312	12,250
UNITED STATES							
Corn for grain	70,537	73,059	133.8	141.9	Bu.	9,437,337	10,369,369
Cotton, all ^{4/}	13,424.9	14,188.0	607	648	^{1/}	16,968.0	19,159.1
Hay, all	63,160	62,191	2.52	2.46	Ton	159,077	153,255
Peanuts for nuts	1,436.0	1,465.5	2,667	2,587	Lbs.	3,829,490	3,791,500
Potatoes:							
Winter ^{2/}	17.8	17	229	278	Cwt	4,070	4,720
Spring ^{2/}	84.5	80.1	300	281	Cwt	25,327	22,486
Summer ^{2/}	63.9	62.7	295	289	Cwt	18,865	18,102
Fall ^{2/}	1,332.3	1,359.7	359	^{5/}	Cwt	478,109	^{5/}
Rice	3,562	3,205	5,908	6,184	^{3/}	210,458	198,207
Sorghum for grain	8,544	8,315	69.7	69.5	Bu.	595,166	577,831
Soybeans for beans	72,476	73,474	36.5	40.7	Bu.	2,642,908	2,988,669
Sugarbeets	1,527.3	1,504.0	21.9	22.7	Ton	33,420	34,117
Sugarcane for							
sugar and seed	993.3	1,020.4	35.5	35.8	Ton	35,299	36,523
Tobacco, All	647.2	493.7	1,997	2,169	Lbs.	1,292,692	1,070,765
Tobacco, Type 14	38.8	34.9	2,045	2,113	Lbs.	79,332	73,750
Wheat, all	53,909	54,445	42.7	41.6	Bu.	2,302,443	2,263,192
Winter	35,572	35,401	47.8	45.0	Bu.	1,699,989	1,594,321
Durum	3,569	3,986	27.8	28.9	Bu.	99,322	115,152
Other spring	14,768	15,058	34.1	36.8	Bu.	503,132	553,719

^{1/} Yield in pounds, production in 480 pound net weight bales. ^{2/} Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast. ^{3/} Yield in pounds, production in hundredweight. ^{4/} Includes both upland and Amer-Pima cotton. ^{5/} First forecast in November.